

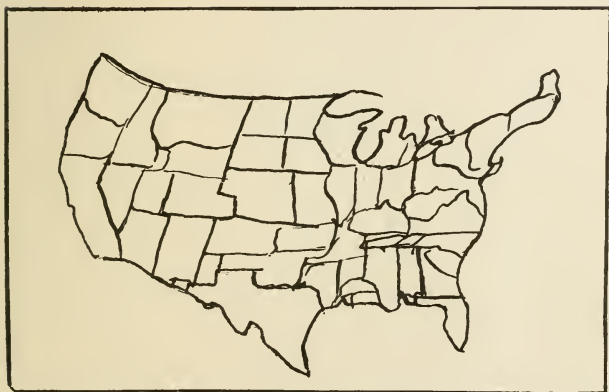
SIGMA


SIGNS

1953



Location of  
D.S.O. Members and Alumni





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2010 with funding from  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

DEDICATED

to

ALL DISABLED PEOPLE

EVERYWHERE



## To Readers of Sigma Signs:

My purpose in writing this letter is to acquaint readers of Sigma Signs with the fact that Disabled Students have an organized group. This group is a very healthy and growing organization with certain immediate goals to obtain. However, the goals obtained are those which the membership of D.S.O. wish to reach; there is no dictation of what is to be done, or what will be done.

Your first interest in entering school is education. Our organization cannot help you greatly with education, however, every minute cannot be filled by that one goal. Delta Sigma Omicron has a desire to push social and recreational welfare, to teach disabled people as well as the general public the possibilities that even wheelchair students have in playing football, basketball, baseball and bowling. These things you will find more fully explained in other portions of this book.

At present Delta Sigma Omicron is engaged in gathering information to support the fact that disabled automobile drivers are not a hazard on the road, but actually are equal or better drivers than the norms. Qualification of this statement lies in the fact that disabled drivers using hand controls can release the accelerator and apply the brakes more quickly with their hand than normal persons can with their feet.

Other projects with which we deal are more directly concerned with functions here on campus. One function that will interest prospective new students is an orientation program. This program is being set up to make the new student feel he or she belongs.

There are numerous other functions D.S.O. carries on that in this writing would be of little interest. I have tried to show the scope of Delta Sigma Omicron and the possibilities the organization does have. In all our activities our purpose is "to exercise our abilities to a maximum so as to minimize our disabilities, that we might live most and serve best."

Robert T. Kaloupek  
D.S.O. President

## HISTORY OF DELTA SIGMA OMICRON

The Corrective Therapy program at the former Galesburg Undergraduate Division, University of Illinois, Galesburg, Illinois, could be called the mother of Delta Sigma Omicron. The need for more than a physical rehabilitation program was recognized by Mr. Nugent, Director of the rehabilitation program, during the fall semester of 1948. Through the aid and guidance of Mr. Nugent, D.S.O. became organized with thirteen members.

In the spring semester of 1949, the organization became incorporated under the Illinois "Not for Profit" State Law of Incorporation. During this same semester, D.S.O. sponsored the First National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament with the proceeds being contributed to the National Paraplegic Research Foundation. At this time, the National Wheelchair Basketball Association was originated.

The end of the spring semester of 1949 marked the end of the Galesburg Division. However, the University of Illinois made accommodations at the main campus at Champaign-Urbana for the wheelchair students. Ramps were built leading into seven class buildings. Two buildings in the Parade Ground Units were adapted for living quarters for the single men. Married paraplegics were accommodated in Stadium Terrace and the girls at Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall. Parking facilities were made available, and classes were rearranged where it was necessary.

In the move to this new location, D.S.O., Alpha Chapter lost five members who picked other schools to attend but new members were soon added, bringing the total membership to twenty-two. Here baseball and football were added to the other major functions of the Rehabilitation Program. The results of these new ventures were extremely satisfying. Participation in a well-rounded Rehabilitation Program was, as always on a voluntary basis for each participant.



At the end of the spring semester of 1951, Alpha Chapter membership had increased to 35 members, five of whom were girls. With the increased number of girls and married men in the organization, wheelchair square dancing was begun; and, for the first time in our history, there were enough married men to make up a football team.

The Gizz Kids, during the 1950-51 basketball season, were well adorned not only with new uniforms, but also with new cheerleaders. Also during this season, D.S.O. sponsored the Third National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament at Champaign-Urbana.

In the fall of 1951, an annual banquet was begun and proved a very great success for both old and new members. Also during this year, D.S.O. took greater interest in campus activities and participated in the Ugly Man Contest and the Mothers' Day Organizational exhibits in the Illini Union. This was also a big year for individual members who participated in a stunt show act for the Homecoming Stunt Show.

The annual banquet of 1952 brought before D.S.O. the greatest number of initiates in the history of the organization. Alpha Chapter now boasts 35 alumni and 47 active members. With the new semester of 1953, two new committees were formed--a driving survey committee and a hospital visitation committee. The success of these two committees is yet to be seen, but the importance has already been felt. The 1953 spring semester is the most successful in the history of D.S.O. The Illinois Gizz Kids won first in the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in New York. Through the efforts of Paul Novak, D.S.O. won first in the Mothers' Day organizational exhibits. And D.S.O. saw Frank Minster in the running for the Student Senate.

Many strides forward have been made; but the greatest accomplishment of the year is the programing of a corrective swimming class for disabled girls. This was accomplished through the efforts of Mr. Nugent and the Special Rehabilitation Program to whom we are very grateful.

## FOOTBALL

Every Saturday morning during the football season when the Illini are scheduled to play in the afternoon, the Blues and Whites meet in the University Armory to clash in a game of wheelchair football.

Wheelchair football is played on an eighty yard field with six players on a team. Team formations take the same names as in regulation football and are good enough imitations to be distinguishable to any football fan.

The Blues got the first choice on new players but they weren't enough to overcome the powerful White team who won the championship again this year. But next year when football season rolls around again the Blues will be hot under the collar and will be all out for the 1953 championship.

## BASEBALL

In our organization we have many baseball enthusiasts. It was found that football and basketball could be played in wheelchairs--why not baseball? So-o-o, it began.

Naturally a man in a wheelchair cannot cover enough territory to play on a regular shaped diamond. The diamond we use is 45 feet from first to third base and the bases are 40 feet apart. This makes the diamond like a real diamond and not a square. This cuts the playing area to the place that a wheelchair team can cover the ground like players in regulation baseball.

Our games are played with fraternities from the campus. The boys get a big bang from playing in wheelchairs. Everyone has a good time and the games are usually close.

## INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

On weekends and after school you are likely to find any of us active in several different types of individual sports. Some of these activities are bowling, ping (continued, page 9.)

## RONALD L. SMOOT

Mr. Ronald L. Smoot, our pioneer in the engineering field, came to this campus in September of 1949 from Danville, Illinois. Prior to his arrival here, he had completed over one year's work through the University's Extension Division, but his dream of being an engineer received little encouragement. He and his father scouted the engineering campus and picked out accessible routes to the labs and classrooms. Then contrary to most of the advice he received, he entered the College of Engineering. Now, our enrollment in the college is second only to that of the College of Commerce--and why shouldn't it be? Ron is an excellent example of what can be accomplished in this field from a wheelchair.

Ron earned his B.S. Degree in mechanical engineering in June, 1952. A short time later, he began work for the I.H.C.'s Division in Evansville, Indiana. In less than one year, he has earned three promotions and now has five men working under him in the design department. He lives in a little house on the banks of the Ohio River, and I understand that every week some of his fellow employees drive out to sample some of his French fried shrimp.

Ron was our first civilian paraplegic to graduate attending under the aid of the Illinois State Rehabilitation Program. He always maintained above average grades, and was active in student activities having many sincere interests and a fitting personality. Now, he is proving his value to society.

(continued from page 8)

pong, billiards, and fishing. It is not uncommon to see one of the fellows sitting on one of the ramps practicing his casting or prone on the floor digging under a chair for a ping pong ball. The facilities in or around Champaign are extremely good for any of these sports.

## PARAPLEGIC DRIVING SURVEY

The cancellation of a handicapped driver's car insurance after an accident, his being refused insurance from other companies, and his ending up in an insurance pool are all quite familiar to disabled drivers. The insurance he gets from the pool includes only liability insurance--usually at a very high rate.

It this has not happened to you, you are lucky--it is all around you! The three biggest insurance companies in the country now have a blanket policy of refusing insurance to disabled drivers.

Faced with this problem, Delta Sigma Omicron is sponsoring a driving survey of disabled drivers to show that they are a good risk. The survey is based on the accidents per thousand miles and is obtained from twenty cars of our disabled drivers. Included in this survey are: (1) abstract reports of all accidents, as obtained from the insurance company involved, and (2) the type of driving conditions which are prevalent.

This survey was started February 25, 1953. In one year we hope to have enough facts to show a trend which will back up our theory that disabled drivers are just as good a risk as drivers who are not physically handicapped.

## HOSPITAL VISITATION COMMITTEE

Doris Sutton and Wayland Smith were appointed co-chairmen of the Hospital Visitation Committee, February 11, 1953. Other members of the committee are Marilyn Dunn, Norma Jean McClure, Bob Kaloupek, Jack Whitman, and Wayne Boeren.

Letters were sent to Burnham, Carle, Cole, and Mercy Hospitals, asking permission to start a visitation at these hospitals. The plan is to visit other physically handicapped people and try to encourage them to not  
(continued, page 12)

## THE THEODORE LESLEY MEMORIAL FUND

The Theodore Lesley Memorial Fund was established on January 8, 1950 by the members of Delta Sigma Omicron with the consent of the parents of Ted Lesley. This fund was established in the name of Ted Lesley in an effort to commemorate him for the wholehearted, unselfish, and unprejudiced efforts which he exerted for other students with similar physical disabilities and for Delta Sigma Omicron, and for his intelligible acceptance of life and the courage he exhibited therein.

The general purpose of the Memorial Fund is to aid physically disabled people in whatever manner or way that the individual can be helped toward a complete and gainful life, particularly through the means of self-administration, higher education, social experiences and growth, and employment.

In the past three years, twenty-three people have been aided by the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund. Some of these have been long term and others have been short term situations, most of them requiring the use of some particular piece of orthopedic equipment or prosthesis such as a wheelchair. Fourteen people in the Champaign-Urbana area have been lent wheelchairs through this fund for use during the early recuperative period following polio, that is to say, until they received a wheelchair of their own or developed, with prosthesis, to the point they could get around satisfactorily without a wheelchair. Others, involved single and bilateral amputees who required the use of a wheelchair until that time when their artificial limbs were prepared and they learned to manipulate on them. Nine students on campus also have been served through the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund. Some of these students required the use of a wheelchair for as long as two years before they either obtained one for themselves or could properly get around on campus without a chair. Others of these students used the chairs because the chairs they came to campus with were inadequate. No matter



how you look at it, the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund has been a great service to many people in its short existence and promises to be of greater service in the future.

Besides the wheelchairs and other incidental items of a prosthetic nature, the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund is striving to build a financial reserve whereby it can either aid individuals through the direct purchase of the proper prosthesis or by financial grants. At present, the balance in the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund is a net \$239.37. It is the goal of Delta Sigma Omicron to build this financial reserve to such a point that to issue a financial grant will in no way decrease the reserve or the effectiveness of the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund.

Moneys for this fund are realized through the sponsorship, by Delta Sigma Omicron, of special events, wheelchair basketball games, and grants and donations.

The principal founder and administrator of the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund was Mr. Lester D. Blankenship. Mr. Blankenship has continued to administer the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund although under most adverse conditions because the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund contains those purposes and those principles to which he, himself, has been dedicated. Let us all keep the purposes and principles of the Ted Lesley Memorial Fund in mind that we may help to build within its struc-

(continued from page 10)

give up because of a disability. We want them to have as full and satisfying a life as we have.

Burnham sent a favorable reply and said that as soon as they have any handicapped patients, they will let us know so we may visit them. Mercy Hospital sent a negative reply, and Carle and Cole Hospitals sent no reply at all.





Part of the gang at last year's initiation party find something to sing about.



Ron Smoot, Don Townsend and Les Blankenship take a study break.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 52-53

The school year really began with a bang when D.S.O. was invited to the annual Policeman's Ball given by the Urbana Policemen. While Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians were playing "the sweetest music this side of heaven" many of the freshmen became acquainted with the upperclassmen of the group and the old members renewed their friendships. A wonderful evening was spent by those who attended this gala affair and everyone appreciated the generosity shown to them by the Policemen.

While everyone was still talking about the Policemen's Ball, another major social event was held. D.S.O. was again invited by the D.A.V. to attend their annual picnic at Lake Springfield on September 21. Out of all the day's activities the boat rides seemed to be favored. There was skepticism as to the weight capacity of the boats when some of the heftier members went for a spin but the boats held up exceptionally well and all arrived safely back at the dock. There was food and entertainment galore and everyone ended his summer vacation on a very happy note.

Before long Halloween was here and with it came a party held at the First Congregational Church. A few of the fellows did a fine job of decorating the room with pumpkins in order to achieve an appropriate atmosphere. That same night pictures of the group were taken for the Illio during which--surprisingly enough--no one broke the camera.

On November 14th Wings Restaurant became the scene of initiation for all new members of D.S.O. No one will forget the variety of delicious dishes that were served that night. Nor will they forget "It's In The Book" which was hilariously presented by a few of the comedians in D.S.O.

The night before the Gizz Kids played against the Memphis Deadenders a party was held at the Illini Union. Everyone enjoyed both meeting the members of the Memphis team and the refreshments that were served.  
(continued, page 26)

## MARILYN DUNN

One of the newer members of D.S.O. is Marilyn Dunn who hails from Hartford, Connecticut. Four years ago, Marilyn was stricken with polio, and the paralysis affected all four extremities. After 14 months in the hospital, Marilyn was taken to her home but continued as an out-patient to another hospital for 21 months longer. All this time, she was rounding out her high school studies with the help of tutors, graduating with her class last year.

Marilyn's father, a Hartford insurance agent, had always planned on his daughter's going to college and, even after the polio, encouraged her to try. She wrote various colleges and universities asking if they had facilities for her wheelchair. Few were encouraging and doctors she saw were even less encouraging. One told her bluntly that consideration of a college career was pointless and foolish. She bowed to his judgment only temporarily--only until she heard about the program at the University of Illinois. Her family was reticent, because Illinois was so far away from home, but they brought her for a visit and she returned to enroll as a student.

Marilyn found many new adjustments necessary. She was put in a residence hall with able-bodied girls and felt herself in unfair competition with them. As time went on and she resisted several impulses to leave in failure, she found that it wasn't unfair competition at all. The girls were helpful when she needed help and, therefore, she was on an equal "footing" in all their activities. It was hard to get into a routine because she had to be places on time; there was no excuse for being late all the time! There were lots of new kinds of doors to learn to handle, bathrooms to navigate alone, and clothes to hang up. With the added disadvantage of impairment to her hands, Marilyn struggled for awhile; however, she learned much from the instructors in her rehabilitation class, and even more because she began to learn from necessity--something she hadn't faced at home. (continued, page 17)

## ROSTER OF MEMBERS

David Afton, LAS 4, Chicago--likes girls who wear saddles. Saddle shoes, that is.

Bruce Aldendifer, LAS 2, Waukegan--is the girl who listens for the "sexy" honk before she begins the race to the front door.

Tom Barnard, Com 2, Chicago--is a true art lover, or so the Memphis millionaire thought.

Max Bartell, Com 1, Galena--has a kind smile, big heart, and an eye for a certain blond.

Marv Berron, Com 1, St. Marys, Ohio--was nicely railroaded into being our new treasurer--or did he railroad some of his friends?

Steve Bodnar, Grad, Champaign--Papa Steve is working on his doctors degree.

Wayne "Gigi" Broeren, Com 2, Tiskilwa--the "little" Member At Large will always remain the ninth ugliest man on campus.

Fred Bumpus, Agr 1, Arcola--took it literally when someone said "Go west, young man, go west," and went to Arizona to get himself a wife.

Vito Caleca, Com 3, Urbana--is a past president who began each meeting with the motto.

Don Doney, FAA2, Quincy--fell lure to the chicken pox this year. Take it easy, Don, the measles might catch up with you next.

Marilyn Dunn, LAS 1, Hartford, Conn.--was the first one done with her exams and the first one to leave for home. Of course she wasn't the least bit anxious!

Gene Emmerich, Com 2, Wheeler--Say, Gene, who is the girl who always calls at such convenient times? Maybe next year you can think of a better excuse to go to the ball games instead of therapy.

Bob Freres, LAS 1, Kenosha, Wis.--and there he sat,

strumming his ukulele in front of Dr. Stoddard.

Ben Graham, LAS 3, Richland, Wash.--Doctor Ben, our pre-med student, was elected Captain of the Gizz Kids for the second year in a row.

Brice Huddleston, LAS 2, Dwight--has been losing his 5.0 average all semester--or so he says. Could it be because he lost his glasses?

Ray Hunt, Eng 1, Ravenna, Ohio--is the studious looking freshman who is always taken for a senior.

Roald Jacobsen, Law 2, Rockford--Mr. Disciplinary Action, in person.

Bob Kaloupek, Com 2, Grinnel, Iowa--and Jack Whitman are both so well qualified, they have to take turns being president of D.S.O.

Jane King, LAS 1, Jacksonville--Cover girl of 1953--Sigma Signs cover that is.

Marv "Mary" Lopicola, Com 1, Oak Park--was our "life-saver" in the finals of the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

Jimmy Lee, Ed 1, Decatur--Educator Jimmy looks more like a cowboy. We should have had him for the Stunt Show.

Wally Manville, Com 3, Evanston--the mysterious one. Did he drop out of school or didn't he? He didn't!?!?

Janet Marshall, LAS 3, Denver, Colo.--"loves" people who open dorrs for her after she's started through.

Norma Jean McClure, LAS 1, St. Joseph--and her roommate had to move out of their room when Norma's sweet potato took over. Some people sure have green thumbs.

Bonnie McManus, LAS 1, Chicago--One practical joke back-fired. I don't think she will ever hide Mae's leg again.

Paul Novak, Com 2, Chicago--was the one man committee

who set up the Mothers' Day organizational exhibit which won first place. Congratulations Paul!

Mark Orr, Grad, Texarkana, Ark.--A big man with a little chair and a southern drawl. Mark was the committee chairman for the movies "The Men" and "The Undeclared" which D.S.O. sponsored for the National Paraplegic Research Foundation.

Glen Perkins, Com 2, Morocco, Ind.--got scalped, but where did the Indians come from?

Salo Rebhan, LAS 4, Champaign--has a car, a home, a sister-in-law, and a niece. All he lacks is a wife.

Don Seifferth, Com 2, Belleville--an All-American all the way. Was selected as a unanimous choice for the All-American Wheelchair Basketball Team for the second year.

Alice Mae Smith, LAS 4, Richmond Heights, Mo.--This semester's secretary wishes she was anything but a math major. She plans on accounting as a masters.

Wayland "Smitty" Smith, Eng 2, Clarendon--has a liking for hospitals--especially Burnham.

Doris Sutton, Com 1, Beaverville--Next semester's secretary wears a diamond--safer for the fellows that way.

Jack Torrance, LAS 1, Chicago--Our "Rip Van Winkle" who was awakened and gotten out of bed at the end of 20 years.

Mae Truxell, FAA 3, Pana--"Mama Maisie" worries about the freshmen.

Jack Whitman, Com 2, Cameron--Next semester is his turn to be president while Bob Kaloupek is vice-president.

Ronald "Gabby" Young, Com 2, Lincoln--missed the point that won one of our games from Kansas City. Some day he'll learn which basket is which.

(continued page 25)



## ROSTER OF ALUMNI

Bob Anderson, Taylorville, Illinois  
Les Blankenship, Champaign, Illinois  
Jack Chase, Los Angeles, California  
Frank Conci, Iowa City, Iowa  
Ray Crigger, Evanston, Illinois  
Frank Deyo, Rock Island, Illinois  
Harold Drake, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Wayne Eccles, St. Louis, Missouri  
Bill Fife, Sioux City, Iowa  
Lula Jean (Kussart) Flaughter, Decatur, Illinois  
Thomas Henderson, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Harris Hjelters, Tuscon, Arizona  
Bill Holloway, St. Louis, Missouri  
Ray House, Mansfield, Illinois  
George Jungels, Chicago, Illinois  
Wayne Lemburg, Springfield, Illinois  
Joe Lo Presti, Skokie, Illinois  
Tom Luttier, Largo, Florida  
John Makris, Denver, Colorado  
Bev McCardle, Champaign, Illinois  
Angie (Tsevelekos) Menna, Decatur, Illinois  
Bob Miranda, Champaign, Illinois





Members of DSO at last year's Hallowe'en party.  
Back row: Don Doney, Ronald Young, Jane King,  
Tom Barnard, Ben Graham, Vito Caleca, Alice Smith,  
Sally Currier, Mae Truxell, and Wayne Broeren.  
Center row: Paul Novak, Jack Whitman, Jack Young,  
Sol Rehban, Don Glyn, Mark Orr, Jack Torrance,





and Marvin Berron. Front Row: Norma Jean McLure, Ray Hunt, Wally Mandville, Bob Kaloupek, Glen Perkins, Marilyn Dunn, Marilyn Brown and Don Swift. Kneeling in front of the group is the director of the University's rehabilitation program, Tim Nugent.











Bill Northdurft, Chicago, Illinois  
Al Oelschlegel, Champaign, Illinois  
Al Pettit, Peoria, Illinois  
John Prince, Des Plaines, Illinois  
Peter Raisch, Palestine, Illinois  
Glenn Rouse, Danville, Illinois  
Bob Ryan, Chicago, Illinois  
Shirley Sayers, Aurora, Missouri  
Ronald Smoot, Evansville, Indiana  
Tony Sokol, Champaign, Illinois  
George Steinmann, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
John Storer, Chicago, Illinois  
Bill Strang, Chicago, Illinois  
Don Swift, Champaign, Illinois  
Max Taylor, Urbana, Illinois  
Lysander Thompson, New Jersey  
Francis Verdon, unknown  
Bob Waller, Los Angeles, California  
Beverly Jean Williams, Chicago, Illinois  
Vernon Wolf, unknown

(continued from page 19)

Dorothy "Miss B." Brumbaugh--is Head Resident at Busey and a fine chaperone for our girls. She had more escorts on the basketball tour than all the cheerleaders combined.

Tim Nugent, faculty adviser--Congratulations Tim and Mokey! Do you want a boy, a girl, or twins (Heaven forbid!)?

The writer of this article does not know all the names of the people of the community who have been so very kind to us this semester but to all of them we are very grateful and present here our heartiest thanks.

## THE TOURNAMENT

The most important highlight of the 1952-53 basketball season was the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament held in New York City, April 17-18-19. The Gizz Kids left Wednesday, April 15 for Chicago where they caught a plane for New York

Even though no cheerleaders were taken on the trip, they sat anxiously at home waiting a reply on the games and kept close contact with the team by telegrams and telephone calls.

The team arrived back in Urbana on Monday, April 20 carrying a trophy almost too big to handle. Fighting through some very rough games, they came back with the first place trophy having defeated Kansas City in the finals.

From all the talk that went around about the trip, everyone must have had a wonderful time. Tim looked quite a bit different when he got back. It might have been because he lacked a moustache.

A welcoming back party was held for the Gizz Kids on the Wednesday evening following their return to Urbana. Ben Graham, Captain, told the group about the trip. Refreshments were served consisting of cokes and a 12 inch cake with "Congratulations Champs" written across the top. A good time was spent by all and a good time few of us will forget.

(continued from page 15)

A picnic is to be held before exams roll around and everyone is looking forward to it very much.

Everyone holds pleasant memories of these major social events of the 52-53 school year hoping that each successive year of D.S.O. will bring as much pleasure and enjoyment to its members as has this year.



Sunday morning February 1st, a group of anxious students huddled around waiting for the "loadup" signal from Tim. They were embarking on a week's basketball tour, playing two games in Kansas City, one against Hannibal, Mo. in Quincy, Ill. and ending the week in a game against the Memphis Deadenders in Memphis, Tenn.

The traveling squad included Don Seifferth, Tom Barnard, Ben Graham, John Auby, "Gigi" Boeren, Bob Kaloupek, Glen Perkins, Marv Lappicola and "Gabby" Young, Coach Tim Nugent, and his "Man Friday," Bill Bandlin. Mae Truxell and Bruce Aldendifer were the cheerleaders, with Miss Brumbaugh as their chaperone. The fourteen members of the tour enjoyed a fine trip seeing many points of interest. We stayed at the Town House in Kansas City, which was very elegant and impressive. We split the double game series with the Kansas City Pioneers, then journeyed to Quincy, where the Gizz Kids defeated the Hannibal Rockets in a very one sided game. Next we spent a few days in beautiful Memphis, where we were entertained most royally. Our stay there was topped off by beating the Deadenders in a very exciting game.

The group returned to Champaign and the busy academic life enlightened by spending such a wonderful between-semesters vacation.

(continued from page 16)

Sharp and witty, Marilyn is a great favorite with the girls in the dorm who like best to dump her out of her wheelchair and take a thrilling ride down steep grades themselves. She loves French but hated it at first. She's also found out that some of her main interests have a field of their own--sociology--so she is eagerly pursuing studies in that department. Someday she hopes to do some professional work in rehabilitation. One thing for sure: Marilyn knows now that she need never be a burden on her family and friends. She is learning to be independent and productive in an atmosphere that prizes these above all things.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Les Blankenship is engaged to Joan Ross from Danville, Illinois. They have set their wedding date for July.

Joan Johnson and Charley Adams are being married June 8th in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Fred Bumpus will also join the ranks with our married couples in June this year.

## WEDDINGS

Wally Manville was married between semesters and he and his wife are residing on campus.

Marv Berron was married over Thanksgiving vacation. He, his wife, Shirley, and their daughter, Becky, are living on campus.

Lou Kussart became Mrs. Robert Flaughter last June 15th in Cerro Gordo, Illinois. She and Bob are residing in Decatur, where he is coach and instructor at a junior high.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Menna announce the arrival of a baby boy born this past fall. Mrs. Menna is the former Angie Tsevolekas, a past student here.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bodnar announce the arrival of a baby girl born this spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Eccles of St. Louis announce the arrival of a son born this past winter.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Gabby Young--Hear Billy Rose has offered you a contract to sing and sway in his newest night club. Guess it pays to sing with glamorous night club singers in New York City!!

That diamond ring sparkling on Doris Sutton's left hand discloses her true anxiety for vacations to hurry around!

Marilyn Brown seems to be well taken care of by Allan--but tell us Marilyn--how do you fall down ramps with someone pushing you?

Mark Orr is a real conneusieur of cooking--even fixed a snail salad for Jack Torrance one evening. How's that for variety!

What--you say you saw a girl in a wheelchair hitch-hiking to Connecticut? She had a black poodle cut? Yes--it must have been Marilyn Dunn!

Don Seifferth and Marv Lappicola played D.S.O. barbers by removing Tim Nugent's moustache as a reward to his boys for winning the tournament. They did the shaving and cutting in front of all eight teams at the victory banquet in New York, taking Tim completely by surprise.

John Auby seems to have found LAR an interesting place to journey in his spare time. Who says John isn't interested in girls?

Tom Barnard is certainly capable of cooking a spaghetti dinner in true Italian style!

Think we'd better keep a couple of our Gizz Kids restricted on basketball trips--those millionaires in Memphis and New York could really get them out of class!

#### ROALD A. JACOBSEN

Amont the positions that exist among the PGU political hierarchy, the one most often considered unnecessary and undesired is the office of disciplinary chairman. Even so, they tell us, it is an extremely important job. This person attends to disciplinary matters concerning residents of the PGUs and also, together with the PGU disciplinary board, makes recommendations to the U. of I. Disciplinary Board.

This is the work of Roald A. Jacobsen, the Norwegian Wonder. Under his adept influence, problems are almost nil. Modest Mr. Jacobsen says, "The boys have been behaving this semester." This dearth of disciplinary (continued, page 31)

## GIZZ KIDS WIN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

April 19th, in the 212th AAA Group Armory, New York City, the University of Illinois Gizz Kids finally nailed down that elusive honor--the national championship. There, after four lean years, Coach Tim Nugent's crew came out on top of the Fifth National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, beating the favored Kansas City Rolling Pioneers, 44-41.

The Kids won the tournament the hard way, knocking over New England and three-time champion St. Louis before they reached the finals. The St. Louis game was especially tight with Illinois holding off a furious fourth quarter Ram rally for the 20-19 win.

Individual honors did not escape the hustling Illini. Hard driving center, Don Seifferth, was unanimous choice for first team All-American. His 16 points sparked the Kids to their first round victory over New England. Captain Ben Graham carried off a second team berth and, for the second consecutive year, Guard "Gigi" Broeren was named Honorable Mention. But, this championship was far from an individual victory. As the New York newspapers described it, "...last night, in a TREMENDOUS TEAM EFFORT, the University of Illinois Gizz Kids won...." That was exactly the case. John Auby, an All-American on any team, Tom Barnard, and "Gabby" Young rounded out the "first six." Marv Berron, Bob Kaloupek, and especially Marv Lapidola sparked the reserves. It was Lapidola who came off the bench and scored six quick points during the second half of the final--sparking the faltering Kids on to victory.

But, the boys did more in New York City than just win basketball games. Guided by members of the 52 Association, sponsors of the tournament, the Gizz Kids "did the town." They saw Times Square, Central Park, Park Avenue, Fifth Avenue, and the Empire State Building. The United Nations was an impressive sight. They saw Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, and of course--Brooklyn. A select few watched TV at Al's. Others splurged and had TV sets in their rooms at the Hotel Empire. Some did both. The Illini were living!

The victory banquet the night of April 19th climaxed the whole wonderful proceedings. Illinois had the place of honor, and after a wonderful meal served by the 52 Association Women's Auxilary, they were entertained by professionals from the stage play "Porgy and Bess" and by not-so-professional barbers who proceeded to remove the distinguishing feature from the bushy upper lip of their beloved and beaten (on a wager) coach. Soon the party began to break up, and amid bursting balooms, handshakes, and back-slapping, the Fifth National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament went into history.

The Gizz Kids, along with assistant coach Hal Coldwater and N.W.B.A. officer and former player Don Swift, left La Guardia Field early the next morning and arrived in Chicago before noon. When the team pulled into Champaign, the press and photographers were waiting, but no--some of the Illinois squad were missing. In typical fashion, Graham was late. His Scotch blood had gotten the best of him, and he had tried to drive his car down from Chicago on water instead of gasoline. It was a fitting climax to a basketball season which saw the Gizz Kids, always off schedule, have their ups and downs, but be UP for and take the big one--the National Tournament.

(continued from page 29)

concerns may seem to leave much free time for him, but no! He is also a house president and a member of the PGU Council.

Roald is in his senior year in the law school. He will receive a bachelor's degree this June, but will be in the law school for two more years after that.

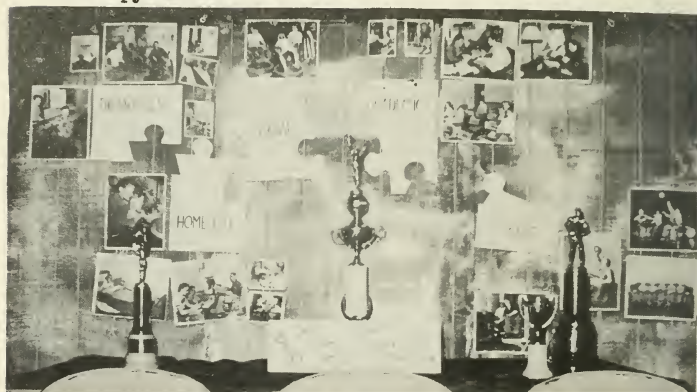
Jacobsen hails from Rockford. He graduated from high school in 1947 and during the period from high school until coming here, he spent over a year as a butcher and for a year was stricken with polio.

Roald, who has an affinity for cigars, enjoys "intellectual" Scandanavian conversations with his roommate, Herb Johnson. Roald speaks Norwegian and Herb, Swedish. For other interests, he lists philately, nuismatology, and card playing.





Marilyn Brown taking a workout in the physical therapy room.



D.S.O.'s first-prize winning display in last year's Mother's Day competition.



## BEN GRAHAM

Before October, 1949, Ben Graham, like a thousand other boys, was going to college, studying Chemical Engineering. But all that was changed when polio struck--that and all the other things any college boy does. During the two years that it took to recuperate sufficiently to allow him to realize just what this could mean to him; how it could ruin everything he had ever wanted to do, he had also developed a deep interest in the work of the doctors who cared for him, and when he was finally ready to start back to school, he decided to enter Pre-medicine.

This was entirely different from his thoughts and ambitions that he harbored before his illness--Ben had always loved baseball, and, like many boys, dreamt of someday playing professionally. Of course, after his illness, that became secondary, as his new ambition to become a doctor dominated his thoughts. While no other person had ever before trained for and received a degree in Medicine while confined to a wheelchair, Ben decided that it was what he wanted. Since he was the first to enter that school, there undoubtedly were those who didn't expect this lofty ambition to persist, but he worked hard and it has paid well. There is still a long way to go before there'll be an M.D. added to his name, but a lot of the hardest part is out of the way, for once any Pre-med has shown that he can do well in his school work, a large part of the battle is won. Now it's just a matter of quite a few years of hard but interesting study, and then success.

Some might think that a young man in a wheelchair, tackling such a difficult task, would have time for little else. However, Ben has time for a wide variety of activities, which include leading the Illinois Gizz Kids to a national championship in New York City, recently. Besides that, he plays baseball and is an ardent St. (continued, page 37)



The Harold Scharper Achievement and Service Awards were established in June of 1950. It was established by the many friends of Harold Scharper to commemorate Harold for the tremendous role he played in the beginning and the development of the University's Special Rehabilitation Program and the opportunity which now exists on the University campus for the education of the physically handicapped. This particular type of award was established in Harold's name because of the great inspiration and example he was to other physically disabled and with the thought that he would prefer that the unselfish achievements and services of others be recognized above all other things. Harold Scharper was the first paraplegic to attend the University of Illinois. It was his interest, his enthusiasm, and his unselfish devotion that prompted members of the University staff to develop a Program which would properly facilitate the College education of the physically disabled. Harold Scharper was a great experience to know and a most difficult one to write about.

## THE HAROLD SCHARPER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Harold Scharper Achievement Award will be made each year to a graduating senior with a physical disability who has exhibited the greatest achievement physically, academically, socially, and in extra-curricular functions during his schooling at the University of Illinois or immediately upon the completion of his schooling. The individual selected for this award will receive, for permanent keeping, a fitting desk or wall plaque which he can proudly display in his home, office or place of business. His name will also be inscribed on the beautiful, large Harold Scharper Achievement Plaque which hangs in the University's Special Rehabilitation Offices. This large plaque will be maintained indefinitely with the name of each year's award winner being inscribed upon it. It is the highest recognition that the University of Illinois, the Special Rehabilitation Program, and Delta Sigma Omicron can bestow upon one of its physically disabled students. It shall indeed be an honor to the student selected and a great example to the many students who

will follow in years to come.

## THE HAROLD SCHARPER SERVICE AWARD

The Harold Scharper Service Award will be given each year to a student of any class who during that given year has contributed the greatest service in the development or furtherance of the purposes and practices for which the University's Program was established and to which Harold Scharper dedicated his life. The individual receiving this award will also be given a most fitting desk or wall plaque which he can proudly display in his home, office or place of business. His name will also be inscribed on the large Harold Scharper Service Plaque which is publicly displayed in the University's Special Rehabilitation Offices and which will be maintained indefinitely as a credit to the recipient of the award and as an example to all students who will follow. The establishment of the Service Award was to supplement the Achievement Award since Harold Scharper expressed "the effort of our Program will only be as good as the unselfish service rendered to it by its participants."

## THE SELECTION OF AWARD WINNERS

The selection of award winners will be made by a joint committee of faculty members who are closely associated or familiar with the purposes, the functions and the student personnel of the Special Rehabilitation Program and alumni of the Program. The present selection committee consists of Dr. C.M. Louttit, Professor of Psychology, Assistant to the Provost of the University of Illinois, and Associate Dean of the University's Graduate College; Dr. H. L. Lawder, Professor of Health Education, Director of the University Health Center; Mr. T. J. Nugent, Supervisor of the University's Special Rehabilitation Program and alumni Al Oelschlegel, Les Blandenship, and Don Swift. All three of these alumni have been with the University Program and Delta Sigma Omicron since its beginning and are still in close contact with the Program through one means or another. The selections being made this year will be retroactive to June of 1951. Therefore, there will be awards made for June of 1951, June of 1952, and June of 1953. The awards will then carry

forward from the exact date of their establishment with Harold Scharper's name appearing on the plate dated 1950.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD		SERVICE AWARD	
1951	John C. Prince	1951	Ronald Smoot
1952	Donald W. Swift	1952	Lester D. Blank- enship
1953	Alice Mae Smith	1953	Leah Mae Truxell

Money for the establishment of the Harold Scharper Awards was spontaneously received from the many friends of Harold Scharper at the time of his death. Many members of Delta Sigma Omicron at that time and now alumni of the University pledged themselves to contribute a certain amount of money each year for the continuation of these awards. All plaques and individual awards to date and the engraving thereon have been paid for. There is still a balance of fifteen dollars and fifty cents in the Harold Scharper budget. Any alumni of the University of Illinois, particularly of the Special Rehabilitation Program, are privileged to contribute any sum of money each year for the continuation and maintenance of the Harold Scharper Awards. Those members who have pledged themselves to this project will receive a letter from the National Treasurer of Delta Sigma Omicron, Incorporated each year beginning this year.

(continued from page 34)

Louis Cardinal fan...and of course, he engages in all the activities that characterize a typical college life. Thus, here is one very good example of the often stated truth that "one can do just what he wishes, if he works hard enough."

## JANET MARSHALL

One of the Members of D. S. O. whom everyone admires is Janet Marshall. Jan transferred to the U. of I. in February of this year from Colorado A. and M. where she had gone for almost four years.

Despite the fact that Jan has severe involvement in all four extremities, she manages to be completely independent. Some of Jan's many friends marvel at the numerous activities which Jan is able to perform herself, taking into consideration the fact that Jan has been disabled since birth by cerebral palsy. No one could ever possibly hope to possess a healthier frame of mind concerning a physical handicap than does Jan, for by working diligently in order to augment her physical strength, she has developed an incomparable outlook on life. She is extremely interested in aiding those who also are limited in their physical capabilities and with that goal forever in mind, Jan is enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, majoring in psychology.

While Jan's particular disability is not a common one in the rehabilitation program her case helps to further illustrate that a physical handicap is only as restricting to a person as it is in that individual's state of mind. Jan has "personality plus" as anyone who has met her will verify. She manages to maneuver around campus in her electric autoette and although her "buggy" can't quite take her home to Denver, Colorado, it is of great value to her.

At the age of 21, there has been little that Jan, the girl with a "hopeless" case of cerebral palsy, has not been able to accomplish. This summer, Jan plans to work as a counselor at Stonehenge Handy Camp, a camp for handicapped children near Denver. She will be able to acquire excellent experience in the field of work in which her main interest lies. Perhaps this job will present minor physical difficulties, but Jan is bound and determined that she is going to be of assistance to the children who need her help. And with her ever-present smile-- she will.

Dear Members:

On behalf of Delta Sigma Omicron, Inc. may I express sincere congratulations to Alpha Chapter for a job well done during 1952-53.

This year above all others has illustrated that good leadership, whole-hearted cooperation of the entire membership and determined will of each member to contribute his maximum ability toward the success of each endeavor will do most to advance the ideals and principles for which Delta Sigma Omicron stands.

The new officers of Delta Sigma Omicron have pledged themselves to serve our purpose to the best of their ability. Let us all pledge to do our part in the fight to reach our ultimate. We should all be proud of the part that we play.

I honestly believe that next year and each succeeding year will bring about great advancement. Let us remember the motto of Delta Sigma Omicron and the message it instills in our minds to lead us into the future: "To exercise our abilities to a maximum so as to minimize our disabilities that we may live most and serve best."

Very sincerely,  
Donald W. Swift,  
President,  
DELTA SIGMA OMICRON, INC.

To the officers of Delta Sigma Omicron and to the SIGMA SIGNS Staff go my heartiest thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

Robert Kaloupek--President  
Jack Whitman--Vice-President  
Alice Mae Smith--Secretary  
Don Seifferth--Treasurer  
Wayland Smith--Member at Large

Jack Torrance--Publication

Jane King--Art

Bruce Aldendifer

Doris Sutton

Norma Jean McClure

Marilyn Dunn

Les Blankenship

Janet Marshall

Mark Orr

Bem Graham

Ronald Young

Tim Nugent

Don Swift

Don Doney

Beverly McCardle

Leah Mae Truxell

Editor of SIGMA SIGNS







